

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated August 6, 2003. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 46 and 48-72 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below. Claims 50, 61, and 65-72 have been cancelled without prejudice by Applicant. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims 50, 61, and 65-72 in subsequent applications. Cancellation of claims 50, 61, and 65-72 is not a concession that the claims are not patentable but rather is Applicant's decision to pursue the subject matter of claims 46, 48-49, 51-60, and 62-64.

Claims 46 and 56 are amended to include the limitations of canceled claims 50 and 61. Claims 48-49, 51, 62, and 64 are amended to include changes made to the dependency of the pending claims due to the cancellation of the corresponding independent claims. It is believed that no new matter has been introduced in these claims. Accordingly, allowance of the pending claims 46, 48-49, 51-60, and 62-64 is respectfully requested.

Applicant has previously submitted a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) in a prior response to the final office action. The terminal disclaimer permits allowance of the subject matter of claims 46, 48-49, 51-60, and 62-64.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 48-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner states that claims 48, 49, and 50 are dependent upon cancelled claim 47. Applicant has cancelled claim 50 and amended claims 48-49 and 51 to be dependent on independent claim 46, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 103 R ejection

Claims 46, 48-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Japanese Patent #1050802 in view of *Kuriki et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,264,748), *White et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,235,634), *Edwards et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,944,857), and *Tanaka* (U.S. Patent No. 5,976,327). Claims 50, 61, and 65-72 have been cancelled without prejudice by Applicant. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled claims 50, 61, and 65-72 in subsequent applications. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

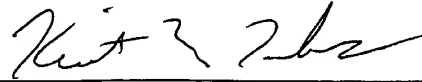
Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *See, In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992); and MPEP 2143.01. If the rationale to combine the prior art is based on common knowledge in the art, the examiner must cite a reference in support of his position or supply an affidavit attesting to the facts. (*See*, MPEP 2144.03.)

The Examiner provides no rationale for combining the various elements of numerous references. Therefore, Japanese Patent #1050802 in view of *Kuriki et al.*, *White et al.*, *Edwards et al.*, and *Tanaka*, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest a robot disposed within a mini-environment, one or more process chambers connected to the one or more load lock chambers, each load lock chamber connected to a single process chamber, and each load lock chamber include an enclosure having a bottom, a lid and sidewalls defining a chamber cavity, wherein one or more perforations are disposed in the bottom, one or more lift pins slidably disposed through the one or more perforations, and a transfer robot disposed in each load lock chamber, as recited in claims 46 and 56, and claims dependent therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Having addressed all issues set

out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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